Serial No. 10/527,914

Atty. Doc. No. 2002P11020WOUS

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A storage medium which stores a software system for providing a programming environment to create device-independent functionality among automation devices in an automation system of the type including a plurality of automation devices, the system comprising:

one or more automation engineering editors for generating solutions for <u>multiple</u> ones one or more of the automation devices;

a compiler for translating the solutions into an intermediate language in a runtime framework for further translation into different instructions for automation devices in different automation systems; and

an automation device-specific adapter for each of the automation devices, each adapter providing a translation of a solution into instructions which can be interpreted by an automation device in a different automation system, the software system providing encapsulation of specific functions of at least one of the automation devices and providing a base functionality of the one-automation devices, the editors and compiler providing an automation functionality in a standard framework for application among automation devices having different command sets for being programmed.

22-23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 21, wherein the software system is provided for developing control software in the automation system.

Serial No. 10/527,914

Atty. Doc. No. 2002P11020WOUS

25. (previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 21, wherein the software system provides technological objects for automation devices and, when the system includes m editors and n automation devices, at most, only n + m compilers are required to implement the solution.

26. (previously presented) A system including the storage medium according to claim 21, further comprising: a memory for storing automation solutions for recurring tasks.

27. (previously presented) The system according to claim 26, adapted for using the Internet and/or an intranet for transmitting data.

28. (previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 21, wherein an automation-specifically designed programming language is used for developing control software for the automation system.

29. (currently amended) A method for providing device-independent functionality for automation devices, the method comprising:

providing a compiler for receiving solutions from one or more automation engineering editors and translating the solutions into an intermediate language in a runtime framework for further translation into different instructions for automation devices in different automation systems; and

providing an automation device-specific adapter for each of the automation devices, each adapter providing a translation of a solution from the intermediate language into instructions which can be interpreted by an automation device in a different automation system, the software system providing encapsulation of specific functions of at least one of the automation devices, the editors and compiler providing an automation functionality in a standard framework for application among automation devices having different command sets for being programmed.

30. (canceled)

Serial No. 10/527,914

Atty. Doc. No. 2002P11020WOUS

- 31. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein automation functionality is provided independent of the automation device.
- 32. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein a development system is used for developing control software.
- 33. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29, further comprising: providing technological objects for the automation devices.
- 34. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29, further comprising: storing automation solutions for recurring tasks.
- 35. (previously presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein the Internet an intranet is used for transmitting data.
- 36. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29 including providing a programming language automation-specifically adapted for developing control software.
- 37. (canceled)
- 38. (previously presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein compilers are provided for mapping the intermediate language onto a target platform.
- 39 41. (canceled)